

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

An additional drawing sheet with figures 4 and 5 is submitted to show the hollow tube and the elongated member described in the specification and the claims. Furthermore, the specification has been amended to refer to the added drawing figures.

The examiner has acknowledged that claims 3, 6, 7, 11, 14, 15, 19, 22, and 23 are directed to allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 3, 11, and 19 have been rewritten in independent form to overcome the objections. Claims 6, 7, 14, 15, 22, and 23 are dependent on these now independent claims.

Claims 1, 9, and 17 have been amended to more clearly define the invention. Claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16, 18, 20, 21, and 24 are dependent on these amended independent claims.

Dumler et al. (US Patent No. 6,612,764) discloses a cosmetic applicator with two applicators connected end to end with the applicator tips oriented in opposing directions. Each applicator is inserted into a separate reservoir that is screwed onto a coupling member at the connected end of the two applicators.

Applicant's invention is a sealed container of multiple applicators that may be selectively opened and removed one at a time. The multiple applicators comprises of an elongated housing that is separated into multiple sealed compartments containing a liquid or a viscous substance with an opening means formed at each of the sealed compartments wherein the elongated housing may be selectively severed into shorter sections at the opening means and removed. In one embodiment, each of said sealed compartments also encloses an applicator tip such as a swab applicator affixed within the sealed compartment with the applicator tip disposed near the

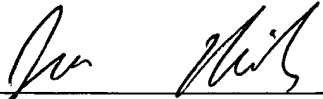
opening means. The removed section of the elongated housing is used to apply the liquid or viscous substance contained therein and disposed of after application.

As is clearly shown in all the figures, the opening means in applicant's invention are all positioned at the same location in the same orientation relative to each sealed compartment and the sealed compartments adjacent to it. When there is an applicator in the sealed compartment, the opening means is positioned near the applicator tip such that the applicator tip will be immediately exposed for application as soon as the sealed compartment is opened through the opening means. All the applicators in each sealed compartment are oriented in the same direction, i.e. all applicator tips are oriented toward the same direction. Whereas, Dumler discloses only two applicators affixed end to end with the applicator tips oriented in opposing directions. Each applicator is inserted into a separate reservoir that is screwed onto a coupling member where the ends of the two applicators are affixed. The reservoirs will separate from the coupling member after it is opened. However, the applicator tip is not exposed until the reservoir is pulled through the entire length of the applicator and completely away from the applicator tip.

Applicant has amended the claims to more clearly define the invention and to overcome the rejections. Accordingly, applicant believes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) has been overcome by applicant's amendments and remarks. Applicant hereby respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and a timely Notice of Allowance issued in this case.

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Respectfully submitted,



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